



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR 23 2006

Honorable Willis Smith, Mayor  
Village of Deposit  
Village Hall  
146 Front Street  
Deposit, New York 13754

Dear Mayor Smith:

This is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the proposed rehabilitation of the Village of Deposit's wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities in Broome County, New York is categorically excluded (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6. The project is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act grant (Grant No. XP972707-05).

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, EPA approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen Callahan*  
for Alan J. Steinberg  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Munn, P.E., Stearns & Wheler (w/enclosure)

## ENCLOSURE

**Village of Deposit  
Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System Rehabilitation Project  
Broome County, New York  
Special Appropriation Grant Project No. XP972707-05**

### Background

The Village of Deposit's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), which discharges to the West Branch Delaware River (a trout fishery), was constructed in 1974. In 2003, the Village signed a Consent Order with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) which requires the Village to address the facility's periodic non-compliance with its New York State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit, particularly the facility's permitted discharge limits for flow, biological oxygen demand, total suspended solids, settleable solids, chlorine residual, and fecal coliform. The proposed project is intended to restore the WWTP's performance and enable it to comply with the effluent limits specified in its SPDES permit.

### Proposed Action

The proposed project involves rehabilitation of the Village of Deposit's wastewater facilities by replacing outdated and/or non-functional wastewater treatment components as follows:

1. Install a mechanically-cleaned spiral screen
2. Install a vortex-type grit removal system
3. Install raw sewage pumps, motors, drives, flow distribution equipment and control systems
4. Install centrifugal blowers and flexible membrane aeration system in aeration tanks
5. Retrofit existing tanks for use as extended-aeration tanks
6. Install a secondary clarifier, retrofit the existing clarifier
7. Replace chlorination system with new ultraviolet disinfection system
8. Install a new sludge storage tank and sludge transfer pump
9. Rehabilitate the roof and drainage system of the sludge drying beds
10. Implement various other improvements to the WWTP's lighting, heating and ventilation systems, water system, roofing, flow measurement equipment, control systems, and other ancillary work
11. Repair two damaged sections of sanitary sewer and four manholes, to reduce excessive infiltration and inflow of extraneous water to the wastewater conveyance and treatment systems.

Implementation of this proposed action will enable the WWTP to operate in accordance with its SPDES permit limits, and will result in water quality improvements to the West Branch Delaware River.

### Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed action, the following alternatives were considered:

**No Action** - If no action is taken, the Village would continue to operate the WWTP in non-compliance with the facility's SPDES permit. Inadequately treated wastewater would continue to be discharged to the West Branch Delaware River trout fishery, and the Village would be subject to further enforcement action by the NYSDEC.

**Complete Replacement** - This would involve demolition or abandonment of the existing WWTP and construction of a new facility either at the same site or new site. The estimated cost of this alternative is significantly greater than the cost of the proposed rehabilitation project. Consequently, the complete replacement alternative was rejected.

### Eligibility for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving "actions which are solely directed toward ... functional replacement of equipment, or ... construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities."

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.107(e), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

### Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.